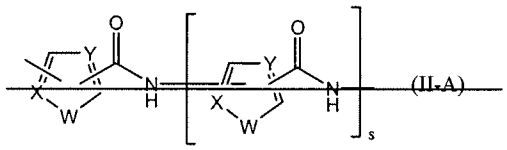
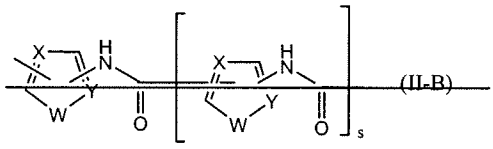
Amendments to the Specification:

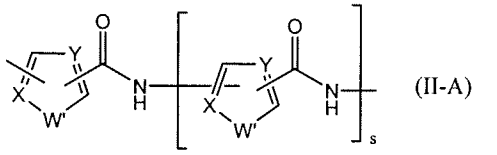
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

One of R_9 and R_{10} can be $CONH(CH_2)_mNR^bR^c$, $L\text{-}N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$, or a DNA minor groove binder, and the other can be C_1-C_6 alkyl or hydrogen. For example, one of R_9 and R_{10} can be $CONH(CH_2)_mNR^bR^c$ (e.g., $CONH(CH_2)_2N(CH_3)_2$), and the other can be C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., CH_3) or hydrogen. As another example, one of R_9 and R_{10} can be $L\text{-}N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$ (e.g., one of R_9 and R_{10} can be $N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$ or $CH_2N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$ or one of R_9 and R_{10} can be $O(CH_2)_2N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$ or $O(CH_2)_4N(CH_2CH_2Cl)_2$), and the other can be C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., CH_3) or hydrogen. As a further example, one of R_9 and R_{10} can be a DNA minor groove binder and the other can be C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., CH_3) or hydrogen. One of R_9 and R_{10} can be $CONH(CH_2)_r\text{-}J\text{-}W\text{-}(CH_2)_tR^e$, in which r is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; t is 1, 2, 3, or 4, 5, or 6; J is -CONH- or -NHCO-; W is:

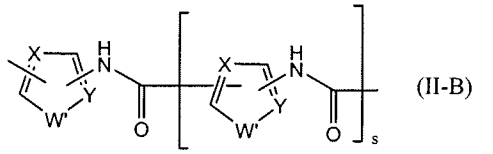


~~or~~

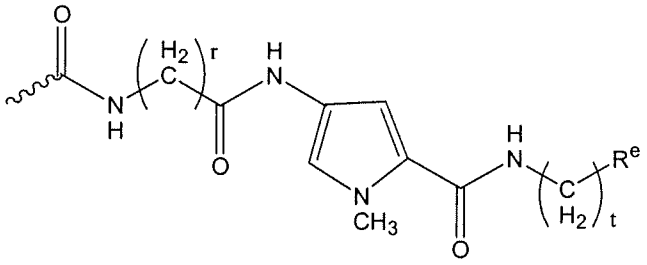




or

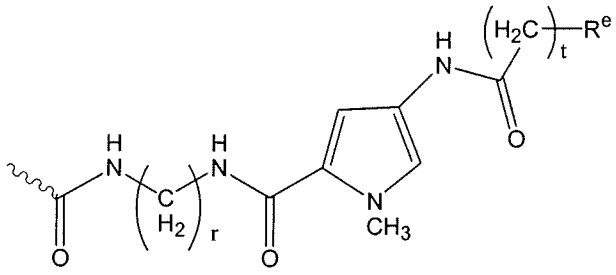


s is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4; each of X and Y is, independently, N or CR^f; [[W]] W' is NR^g, O, or S; R^e is NR^bR^c, NHCHO, or $NHC(=NH)NH_2$; each of R^b and R^c is, independently, hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, COR^d, or $COOR^d$; and each of R^f and R^g is, independently, hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl. s can be 0, each of X and Y can be CH, and [[W]] W' can be NCH_3. One of R_9 and R_{10} can be:



,

in which r and t can both be 3, and R^e can be $N(CH_3)_2$, NHCHO, or $NHC(=NH)NH_2$. One of R_9 and R_{10} can be:



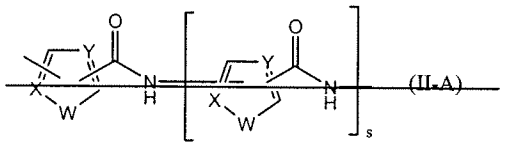
,

in which r and t can both be 3, and R^e can be $N(CH_3)_2$, NHCHO, or $NHC(=NH)NH_2$. In still another example, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, and R_{13} each can be hydrogen.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

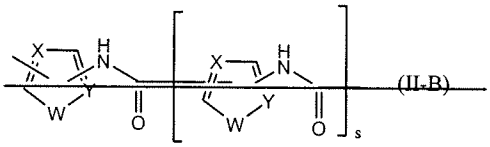
In general, the DNA minor groove binder can have the formula, $-CONH(CH_2)_r$-J-W-$(CH_2)_tR^e$, in which the amide carbonyl carbon at the left hand side of the formula represents the point of attachment of the DNA minor groove binder to the acridine ring. The spacers "$(CH_2)_r$" and "$(CH_2)_t$" can each contain, independently of one another, 1-5 CH_2 units (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 CH_2 units) and 1-6 CH_2 units (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 CH_2 units), respectively. In certain embodiments, both r and t are 3. The term "J" can either be -CONH- or -NHCO-. The term "W" represents a heteroaryl

group having either formula (II-A) or (II-B) shown below. W can be a monomeric, dimeric, trimeric, tetrameric, or pentameric entity, i.e., s can be 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, respectively. Any ring atom capable of being substituted can be the point of attachment for the intervening amide linkages shown in formulas (II-A) and (II-B). Each of the five membered rings can

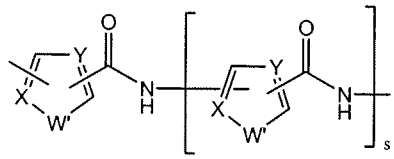


(II-A)

~~or~~

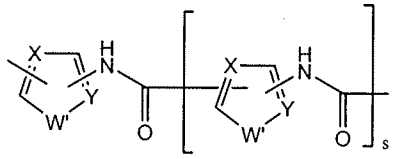


(II-B)



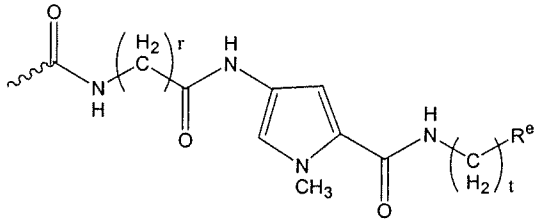
(II-A)

or

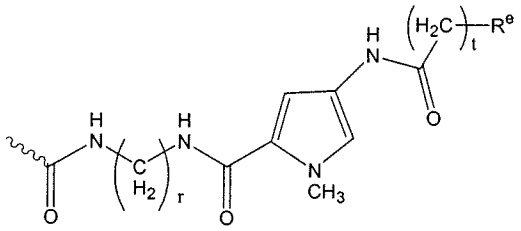


(II-B)

contain 1, 2, or 3 heteroatoms. In some embodiments, [[W]] W' can be NR^g, O, or S; and X and Y can be, independently of one another, N or CR^f, in which R^f and R^g can either be hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl, or C_6 alkyl). In some embodiments, [[W]] W' is NCH_3; and X and Y can both be CH; or X can be CH and Y can be N; or X can be N and Y can be CH; or X and Y can both be N. R^e can be NR^bR^c, NHCHO, or $NHC(=NH)NH_2$. Each of R^b and R^c can be, independently of one another, hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl, or C_6 alkyl), COR^d, or $COOR^d$, in which R^d can be C_1-C_6 alkyl (e.g., C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl, or C_6 alkyl), C_6-C_{10} aryl (e.g., phenyl) or C_7-C_{12} aralkyl (e.g., benzyl). In some embodiments, R^e can be $N(CH_3)_2$, NHCHO, or $NHC(=NH)NH_2$ (or the acid salts thereof). In some embodiments, the DNA minor groove binder can have the structure represented by formula (III) or (IV).



(III)



(IV)